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meeting of the Office for the Coordination of Industry and Commerce (Koordinierung und Kontrollstelle fuer Industrie und Verkehr) production problems of the mining and smelting industry were under discussion. As a result of these discussions it was resolved that the Ministry of Mining and Smelting is to institute measures at rolling mills and at the VEB Ziehwerk Drotterode (drawing works) which will raise the drawing and annealing capacities for the production of ball steel wire (Kugelstahldraht) of up to 14 mm. diameter to 110 tons per month.

2. [redacted] staff meeting of the Ministry of Mining and Smelting, a report presented on Eisenhuettenkombinat Stalin (EKS), formerly Eisenhuettenkombinat Ost (EKO), revealed that blast furnace V had not gone into operation on the 1 May target date. A delay in the completion of ore and coke bunkers and generator installations, as well as the non-delivery of pig iron and slag ladles contributed to the failure to get the furnace into operation. The date originally set for commencing production at the EKS steel mill cannot be met. Lokbau-Elektrotechnische Werke, Hennigsdorf (LEW), had contracted to deliver a 36-ton electric furnace by the end of 1953 but has since announced that the furnace will not be delivered until the middle of 1954.

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3. A financial statement presented at the [REDACTED] staff meeting revealed that the iron and steel plants under the Ministry of Mining and Smelting had operated at a loss, a loss which exceeded the estimate of loss made at the beginning of the quarter by 16,579,000 D.T. The nonferrous mills, on the other hand, had operated at a loss which was 867,000 D.T. less than the original estimate of loss.

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